



Handout # 4:

Reaching out to Principal Investigators / Program Developers

Many researchers or Principal Investigators (PIs) will want to discuss their evidence-based programs (EBPs) and help you use them. Collaboration may help you: a) ensure that the program meets the needs of your organization and community, b) customize and localize an EBP for your community, c) deliver the program, and / or d) plan for evaluation. Providing the PI/researcher with information about your community and organization may be helpful.

Below are some questions that may be useful for you to ask the PI / researcher. Some of this information may be available in program materials.

Audience

- Where has this program been used? In what settings? With what populations?
- How did the group's characteristics impact the development of the program?

Training and Staffing

- What are the staffing requirements (number, type, and qualification level)?
- Is training required before the program can be used? If so, who conducts the training, where, and at what cost?
- How long does it usually take for a site to become expert at delivering the program?

Program Delivery

- What barriers did you find as you delivered the program? How did you overcome these barriers? Did you change the program to address the barriers?
- Are there parts of the program that absolutely must be delivered? Are there parts that lend themselves to being changed?

Program Evaluation

- How did you evaluate the program?
- What were the key program outcomes? How did you decide these were the most important? What outcomes might be most relevant for our goals?
- How did you collect and analyze the data?
- What barriers did you encounter during the evaluation phase? Were you able to overcome these barriers and if so, how?

Miscellaneous

- How can we obtain a copy of materials and evaluation instruments?
- What costs were involved with the program? Examples: Labor, incentives, materials, printing / production, time.
- If the costs are greater than our budget allows, can we use portions of the program?
- Are there other similar programs we should review if this program does not work for our community?
- Are there other people or community groups we can speak to in order to learn more about the program?

Adapted from: National Cancer Institute. (2006). Using What Works: Adapting Evidence-based Programs to Fit Your Needs. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services / National Institutes of Health